



“People experiencing homelessness are far more likely to listen to each other than someone coming from outside their experience. Empowering people in this community to speak to one another about sexual assault prevention would be highly effective if they were given the proper tools, training, and support.”

– Madeline Wadley, Homeless Services Case Manager, AHOPE

Prevention Education for Underserved Populations in Buncombe County

Within the sexual violence prevention field and through reports by the World Health Organization, we know the risk factors that contribute to the first time perpetration include but are not limited to:

- Societal norms that support sexual violence
- Societal norms that support male superiority and sexual entitlement
- Societal norms that maintain women’s inferiority and sexual submissiveness

In 2015, Our VOICE conducted a Community Readiness Assessment, through which we identified five populations—**LGBTQI, African-American, Latino, Homeless, and Faith-Based**—with high levels of identified risk factors that are under-sourced.

Ending sexual violence in our community can be achieved with appropriate preventive resources, including the expansion of Our VOICE’s primary prevention program by training trainers in underserved communities.

Project Summary

Our VOICE will train ambassadors to go into their own communities to teach healthy dating and communication and sexual assault prevention. The use of ambassadors is most effective because people are more likely to accept ideas and information from their own community member, whom they know and trust. This project will expand Our VOICE’s efforts to prevent sexual violence through Buncombe County middle and high schools and through the underserved faith based, African American, Latino, and Homeless communities.

Twenty community leaders will be trained to administer sexual assault curricula to underserved populations. **Four hundred underserved community members** will learn about healthy dating and communication and sexual assault prevention. An additional **720 middle- and high school students** will learn about healthy dating and communication and sexual assault prevention.

– Our VOICE MISSION –

In the pursuit of a community that is free of sexual violence, Our VOICE serves all individuals in Buncombe County affected by sexual assault and abuse, through counseling, advocacy and education. (828) 252-0562 • ourvoicenc.org